per cent or less than this, it would make operation of power projects profitable;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) names of States in the country where the said loss is less than 20 per cent and whether they are running on loss?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Although, as per an estimate, reduction in transmission and distribution (T&D) loss to the extent of 1 per cent may generate savings of over Rs. 700-800 crores and reduction of T&D loss by 10% may release energy equivalent to an additional capacity of 10,000-12,000 MW, the financial viability *vis-a-vis* profitability of a State Electricity Board (SEB) depends upon several other factors such as increasing average revenue realisation by improving consumer metering, billing, collection efficiency, anti-theft measures, rationalisation of tariff, franchising of distribution operation, energy auditing and accounting etc.

(c) The States of Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu have reported T&D losses less than 20 per cent during 2003-04. The T&D loss and the commercial loss of the two States during 2003-04 were as under:

(Rupees in crores)

| Sl. No. | State | T&D loss (%) | Commercial profit/loss |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Meghalaya | 16.73 | 64 |
| 2 | Tamil Nadu | 17.16 | -1416 |

**Settlement of Tehri Dam's families**

3145. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tehri has been finally submerged under Bhagirathi, following closure of the Tehri Dam's tunnel;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far and progress made towards commencement of power generation; and

(c) the progress made so far towards rehabilitation and resettlement of dam oustees indicating the number of families ousted thereby and those resettled and to be resettled?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The old Tehri Town has submerged following the closure of last Diversion Tunnel T-2 of Tehri Dam Project on 20.10.2005 and the water level has reached a level of 700 M. The filling of the reservoir is being done in a phased manner and it will take three to four years to reach the Full Reservoir Level of Elevation Level (EL) 830 Meters.

(b) The 260.5 M high earth and rock fill dam has been completed. Entire civil and electro-mechanical works including pre-commissioning tests have been completed for commissioning of all the four units of 250 MW each, progressively from March, 2006 onwards. The generation from the project will start after reservoir is filled up to EL 740 M.

(c) All the 5291 Urban families and 4779 fully affected Rural families have already been rehabilitated. The remaining 650 fully affected Rural families residing above EL 760 M are being rehabilitated *parri-passu* with the reservoir filling. In addition, out of 3180 partilally affected Rural families residing above EL 800 M which are not to be rehabilitiated, 2280 families have been given the cash compensation due to them.

**Private and foreign investment in power sector**

3146. SHRI PRAMOD-MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the private and foreign investment in power sector in last three years, year-wise; and '

(b) the steps taken to increase private and foreign investment in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Pursuant to the Electricity Act, 2003, the thermal generation has been delicensed. As regards private investment in hydro-